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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

Revised estimates under sections 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 8, 15, 24 and 28 and income section 1

Fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on resources appropriated for activities related to apartheid under sections 3A, 3C and 24 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995; estimated expenditures in 1994; and proposals for disposition of the remainder of those resources (A/C.5/49/44). During consideration of the item, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Committee.

2. As recalled in paragraph 2 of the report, by its resolution 48/258 A of 23 June 1994, the General Assembly considered that the mandate of the Special Committee against Apartheid had been successfully concluded and decided to terminate it as of that date.

3. However, the Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General is dated 10 December 1994 and was submitted to the Committee for consideration on 16 December 1994.

4. In view of the late submission of the Secretary-General's report and in order for the Committee to make a thorough review of all the items covered by the report, it intends to make a detailed examination of the document at its resumed session in February 1995.

5. In the meantime, in the view of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General should proceed with the redeployment of staff who have been affected by the termination of the Special Committee against Apartheid, to vacant posts wherever they may be available.

6. However, the General Assembly would need to take a decision on the continuation in 1995 of resources released from the activities relating to apartheid and redeployed to fund 6 temporary posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 4 General Service) for servicing of the Security Council sanctions committees. As indicated in paragraph 73 of the Secretary-General's report, the cost of these six posts in 1995 is estimated at $439,800. The Advisory Committee recommends that pending its review and related action by the General Assembly, the temporary posts be continued through 31 March 1995 with the related costs to be met from within currently available reserves under section 3.

7. In paragraph 81 of his report, the Secretary-General refers to his previous estimate of requirements for work related to an international convention to combat desertification. Pending review by the Advisory Committee in February 1995 and subsequent consideration by the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments under section 8 in an amount not exceeding $144,000 for the period 1 January-31 March 1995.